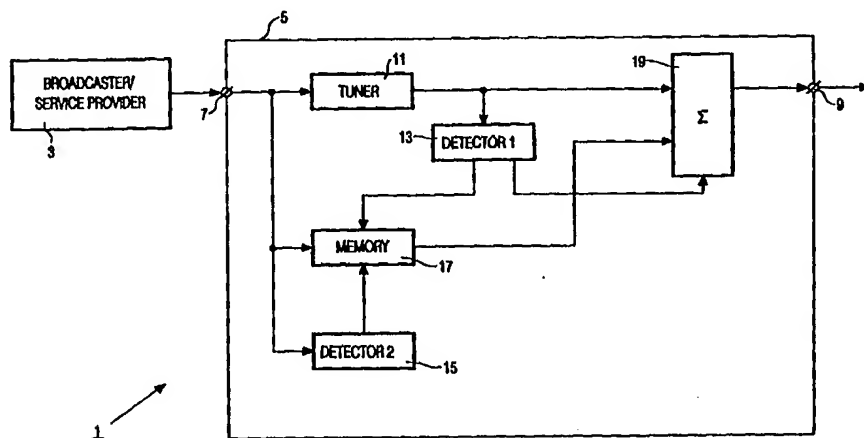




INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : H04N 5/44, 7/08, 5/92	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 98/36563 (43) International Publication Date: 20 August 1998 (20.08.98)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/IB98/00172 (22) International Filing Date: 12 February 1998 (12.02.98) (30) Priority Data: 97200418.8 14 February 1997 (14.02.97) EP (34) Countries for which the regional or international application was filed: NL et al. (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS N.V. [NL/NL]; Groenewoudseweg 1, NL-5621 BA Eindhoven (NL). (71) Applicant (for SE only): PHILIPS NORDEN AB [SE/SE]; Kottbygatan 7, Kista, S-164 85 Stockholm (SE). (72) Inventor; and (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): VAN LUYT, Balthasar, Antonius, Gerardus [NL/NL]; Prof. Holstlaan 6, NL-5656 AA Eindhoven (NL). (74) Agent: BAELE, Ingrid, A., F., M.; Internationaal Octrooibureau B.V., P.O. Box 220, NL-5600 AE Eindhoven (NL).		(81) Designated States: CN, JP, KR, SG, US, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). Published <i>With international search report.</i> <i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>

(54) Title: TV SIGNAL RECEIVER**(57) Abstract**

The invention relates to a TV signal receiver (5) comprising a tuner (11; 12) for deriving a first TV signal from the input signal, and a device for storing and reading at least a plurality of second TV signal blocks to be derived from the input signal in/from a memory (17). The first TV signal has interruptions during which a second TV signal block is insertable so as to obtain a composite TV signal which is applied to an output terminal (9) of the TV signal receiver (5).

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AL	Albania	ES	Spain	LS	Lesotho	SI	Slovenia
AM	Armenia	FI	Finland	LT	Lithuania	SK	Slovakia
AT	Austria	FR	France	LU	Luxembourg	SN	Senegal
AU	Australia	GA	Gabon	LV	Latvia	SZ	Swaziland
AZ	Azerbaijan	GB	United Kingdom	MC	Monaco	TD	Chad
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	GE	Georgia	MD	Republic of Moldova	TG	Togo
BB	Barbados	GH	Ghana	MG	Madagascar	TJ	Tajikistan
BE	Belgium	GN	Guinea	MK	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	TM	Turkmenistan
BF	Burkina Faso	GR	Greece			TR	Turkey
BG	Bulgaria	HU	Hungary	ML	Mali	TT	Trinidad and Tobago
BJ	Benin	IE	Ireland	MN	Mongolia	UA	Ukraine
BR	Brazil	IL	Israel	MR	Mauritania	UG	Uganda
BY	Belarus	IS	Iceland	MW	Malawi	US	United States of America
CA	Canada	IT	Italy	MX	Mexico	UZ	Uzbekistan
CF	Central African Republic	JP	Japan	NE	Niger	VN	Viet Nam
CG	Congo	KE	Kenya	NL	Netherlands	YU	Yugoslavia
CH	Switzerland	KG	Kyrgyzstan	NO	Norway	ZW	Zimbabwe
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	NZ	New Zealand		
CM	Cameroon	KR	Republic of Korea	PL	Poland		
CN	China	KZ	Kazakstan	PT	Portugal		
CU	Cuba	LC	Saint Lucia	RO	Romania		
CZ	Czech Republic	LI	Liechtenstein	RU	Russian Federation		
DE	Germany	LK	Sri Lanka	SD	Sudan		
DK	Denmark	LR	Liberia	SE	Sweden		
EE	Estonia			SG	Singapore		

TV signal receiver.

The invention relates to a TV signal receiver. Generally, TV programs of a given length are regularly interrupted by, for example commercials or other information. Such messages are usually concentrated in a standard packet which is sent to everyone. Many viewers regard at least a part of such a packet as being useless, for they prefer information
5 about other subjects such as, for example stock exchange news or the weather forecast instead of commercials, or they prefer, for example commercials about products in which they are specially interested.

10 It is an object of the present invention to provide a TV signal receiver with which it is possible to adapt the contents of second TV signal blocks referred to as information signals, which do not form part of the first TV signal, for example a movie, and become available at the output terminal of the TV signal receiver.

To this end, the TV signal receiver according to the invention has an
15 input terminal for receiving an input signal, a tuner for deriving a first TV signal from the input signal, and a device for storing and reading at least a plurality of second TV signal blocks to be derived from the input signal in/from a memory, said first TV signal having interruptions during which a second TV signal block is insertable, the interruptions being provided with a first control signal for controlling the memory in such a way that at least one
20 second TV signal block is read from the memory for insertion into an interruption in the first TV signal so as to obtain a composite TV signal, and further having an output terminal for supplying the composite TV signal.

In this way, second TV signal blocks which do not form part of the first TV signal, referred to as the main signal, can be selectively added to the main signal via the
25 signal receiver. These second TV signal blocks are stored in a memory in the receiver from which they are read again at the moment when there is an interruption in the main signal. This is effected in response to a first control signal comprising information about the positions of the interruptions. For example, the first control signals may precede the interruptions in the input signal. They may also be present, for example at the start of the

interruptions. The second TV signal blocks are linked with a second control signal. Said control signal has to activate the memory in time so that the second TV signal blocks can be stored when they arrive. The first and the second control signals are detected by detection means. The detection means may, for example, comprise one or more detectors or may
5 consist of a control system unit.

The TV signal receiver is switchable between two modes. In the first mode, second TV signal blocks are read from the memory and inserted into the interruptions. In the second mode, the second TV signal blocks received at the input terminal are stored in the memory where they create an assortment of second TV signal blocks. In both cases, use
10 is made of a control signal which ensures that the second TV signal blocks are inserted or stored at the suitable moment.

Moreover, the TV signal receiver may be provided with input means with which a profile of second TV signal blocks of the desired contents can be selected. Such a selection may take place before the second TV signal blocks are sent to the receiver. In that
15 case, a signal supplied from an output terminal of the signal receiver is sent with the relevant information to the broadcaster or service provider which subsequently only sends the desired second TV signal blocks and, based on a control signal, switches the TV signal receiver to the second mode so that the second TV signal blocks can be stored in the memory.

Instead of the user making his choice via the input means, the broadcaster
20 or service provider may monitor the content of the second TV signal blocks himself. To this end, the broadcaster or service provider may determine the preferential profile based on the situation of the user. Elements such as the age of the user and his purchasing behaviour during a certain period may play an important role.

If the relevant information remains stored and if this information is not
25 sent to the broadcaster or service provider, the broadcaster or service provider may send a full packet of second TV signals to the device and store them in the memory. In this case, the selection is made known to the memory so that only second TV signal blocks having the desired contents are retrieved from the memory by means of a selector and inserted into the interruptions.

30 The selection may take place before the information packets are stored in the memory. Then, the memory will only comprise the information of which the content meets the preferential profile. In this way a smaller memory would suffice.

Further, it is proposed to make the same second TV signal blocks frequently insertable, so that the user has the opportunity to watch the same message more

than once.

These and other aspects of the invention are apparent from and will be
5 elucidated with reference to the embodiments described hereinafter.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1(a) and 1(b) show a first and a second embodiment of a system
provided with a broadcaster or service provider and at least one TV signal receiver according
to the invention;

10 Fig. 2 shows a third embodiment of a system provided with a broadcaster
or service provider and at least one TV signal receiver according to the invention, in which a
profile of desired second TV signal blocks is made known to the broadcaster or service
provider; and

Fig. 3 shows a fourth embodiment of a system provided with a
15 broadcaster or service provider and at least one TV signal receiver according to the
invention, in which the preferential profile of second TV signal blocks is presented to the
memory in the receiver.

20 Fig. 1(a) shows diagrammatically a system 1 comprising a broadcaster or
service provider 3 and a TV signal receiver 5. In practice, more than one TV signal receiver
will be connected to the broadcaster or service provider 3. The TV signal receiver 5 has an
input terminal 7 and an output terminal 9. The TV signals transmitted by the broadcaster or
service provider 3 are received at the input terminal 7 of the TV signal receiver 5. This will
25 be further referred to as the input signal. The input signal may be split up into two different
types of signals. The first type relates to the first TV signals, in other words, the main
programs. These first TV signals have interruptions. The second type relates to the second
TV signal blocks comprising information such as commercials, stock exchange news, the
weather forecast, or commercials on given subjects, etc. The contents of such information
30 are, however, often considered to be too diverse by the user who wishes to receive, for
example only information about given subjects. It is an object of the invention to provide a
solution in this respect.

The input signal received at the input terminal 7 is applied to a tuner 11,
so that a first TV signal is selected from the presented first TV signals. The detection means

comprise two detectors 13, 15. Each of the first TV signals has a first control signal with which the position of the interruptions is indicated. This control signal is analyzed by a first detector 13 which is arranged behind the tuner 11.

The input signal may also comprise one or more second TV signal blocks.

- 5 The second TV signal blocks are linked with a second control signal which is detected by a second detector 15. When the detector 15 detects such a control signal, it will activate a memory 17 in such a way that the second TV signal blocks will be stored in this memory.

When the first detector 13 signalizes an interruption in the first TV signal selected by the tuner 11, this detector will subsequently activate the memory 17. The
10 memory 17 will send one or more of the stored second TV signal blocks to a signal-combining unit 19 which also receives the first TV signal selected by the tuner 11. The first detector 13 not only activates the memory on the basis of the first control signal but also the signal-combining unit 19. In response to the first control signal, the second TV signal blocks are inserted into the interruptions in the first TV signal at the appropriate moment in the
15 signal-combining unit, so that a composite TV signal is obtained. The composite TV signal is subsequently applied to the output terminal 9 of the receiver.

Fig. 1(b) shows another embodiment of the TV signal receiver according to the present invention. The tuner 11 and the first and the second detector 13, 15 are substituted by a first and a second tuner 12, 14 and a system control unit 16 constituting the
20 detection means. The input signal received at the input terminal 7 is applied to a first tuner 12, so that a first TV signal is selected from the presented first TV signals. The input signal is also applied to a second tuner 14, so that the second TV signal blocks can be selected from the input signal. The second tuner 14 may be system controlled and decodes incoming messages before sending them to the memory. The first control signal which indicates the
25 interruptions in the first TV signal and the second control signal which is linked with the second TV signal blocks are detected by the control system unit 16. Said control unit 16 activates the memory in reaction to the second control signal, so that the second TV signal blocks can be stored when they arrive. In reaction to the first control signal indicating an interruption in the first TV signal, the memory is activated by the system control unit so that
30 a second TV signal block will be sent from the memory to the signal-combining unit 19 to be inserted in an interruption. For that purpose, the system control unit 16 also activates the signal-combining unit 19.

The receiver is thus switchable between two modes. In the first mode, one or more second TV signal blocks are read from the memory and inserted into an interruption

in the first TV signal. This is effected on the basis of the first control signal with which the interruptions are provided and with which the memory is activated so as to release stored second TV signal blocks. In the second mode, based on the second control signals, one or more second TV signal blocks are stored in the memory so that they can be inserted into the first TV signal at a later stage during possible interruptions.

The second TV signal blocks may be sent to the TV signal receiver at any moment because they can be stored in a memory anyway and can be retrieved at a later stage when there are interruptions.

The TV signal receiver 5 is preferably provided with input means 23 for presenting a preferential profile of themes or subjects about which information is desired. However, this profile may be presented in different manners.

Fig. 2 shows an embodiment in which a first possibility of presenting a preferential profile is illustrated. The profile is supplied from an output terminal 21 of the TV signal receiver 5. Moreover, feedback means 25 may be provided, ensuring that the signal supplied from this output terminal 21 is sent to the broadcaster or service provider 3 so that the broadcaster or service provider can send packets of second TV signal blocks with the desired profile to the TV signal receiver 5.

Fig. 3 shows an embodiment in which a second possibility of presenting a preferential profile is illustrated. The memory 17 may comprise, for example, the full information packet of second TV signal blocks transmitted by the broadcaster or service provider 3 and the desired profile is passed on to the memory 17 with the aid of the input means 23. To this end, the input means 23 are connected to the memory 17 via a selector 27. When the memory 17 is activated by the first detector 13 on the basis of the first control signal with which the interruptions are provided, only second TV signal blocks selected via the selector 27 will be released by the memory 17 in dependence upon the preferential profile and inserted into the interruptions in the first TV signal.

The memory 17 may also contain only those information packets of which the content corresponds to the preferential profile of the user. The information added to the memory then consists of the preferential profile. All additional information comprised in the second TV signal blocks will not be stored. In this case, the preferential profile has to be entered before the information packets are added to the memory. The indication of the preferential profile acts as a filter for the information to be stored in the memory. Consequently, a smaller memory suffices.

Instead of the user making his choice via the input means 23, the

broadcaster or service provider 3 may monitor the content of the second TV signal blocks himself. To this end, the broadcaster or service provider 3 may determine the preferential profile based on the situation of the user. Elements such as the age of the user and his purchasing behaviour during a certain period may play an important role.

5 In both figures 2 and 3, the input means 23 may consist of, for example a keyboard.

It is remarked that in figures 2 and 3, the tuner 11 and the detectors 13 and 15 can be substituted by a first and a second tuner 12, 14 and a system control unit 16, in analogy with figure 1(b).

10 The memory 17 may be implemented in different manners. The memory may be, for example a solid-state memory but also a magnetic record carrier. Examples of a magnetic record carrier are a hard disk or a longitudinal magnetic recording medium. An example of a longitudinal magnetic recording medium is described in the non-prepublished European patent application 96202074.9 (PHN 15.902) in the name of the applicant and is
15 herein incorporated by reference. Fig. 4 shows an embodiment of the recording medium described in said application. The previously filed application already describes how a user can state his wishes with regard to information specially intended for him by making use of a menu. The subjects may be given a priority, thus providing a sequence for the second TV signal blocks to be inserted into the interruptions at a later stage.

20 When the TV signal receiver is switched in the second mode, the second signal blocks may be recorded, for example in the parts P_5 and P_6 of the tracks T_5 and T_6 on the record carrier. If necessary, more second TV signal blocks may of course be recorded in the parts P_5 and P_6 of the tracks. Position information about the position of the second TV signal blocks on the record carrier is stored in the directory which is recorded in the part P_5
25 of the tracks T_1 and T_2 so that the second TV signal blocks can be retrieved if an interruption in a received first TV signal is to be filled up.

As the content of the second TV signal blocks is tuned to the personal choice of a user, there is a better chance that the user wants to see the same message more than once. Therefore, the second TV signal blocks are frequently insertable.

Claims

1. A TV signal receiver having an input terminal for receiving an input signal, a tuner for deriving a first TV signal from the input signal, and a device for storing and reading at least a plurality of second TV signal blocks to be derived from the input signal in/from a memory, said first TV signal having interruptions during which a second TV signal block is insertable, the interruptions being provided with a first control signal for
5 controlling the memory in such a way that at least one second TV signal block is read from the memory for insertion into an interruption in the first TV signal so as to obtain a composite TV signal, and further having an output terminal for supplying the composite TV signal.
- 10 2. A TV signal receiver as claimed in claim 1, wherein the TV signal receiver comprises a signal-combining unit for combining the first TV signal and at least one second TV signal block in response to the first control signal so as to obtain the composite TV signal.
3. A TV signal receiver as claimed in claim 1 or 2, provided with detection
15 means for deriving the first control signal from the first TV signal.
4. A TV signal receiver as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the receiver is switchable between a first mode in which at least one second TV signal block stored in the memory is inserted into an interruption in the first TV signal in dependence upon the first control signal, and a second mode in which second TV signal blocks applied to the input
20 terminal are stored in the memory in dependence upon a second control signal.
5. A TV signal receiver as claimed in claim 1, 2, 3 or 4, provided with detection means for deriving the second control signal from the input signal.
6. A TV signal receiver as claimed in claim 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5, wherein the TV signal receiver is provided with input means for presenting a preferential profile of themes
25 for the second TV signal blocks.
7. A TV signal receiver as claimed in claim 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5, wherein the second TV signal blocks have a preferential profile of themes which is defined by a broadcaster or service provider.
8. A TV signal receiver as claimed in claim 6, wherein the TV signal

receiver is provided with a selector for selecting second TV signal blocks stored in the memory in dependence upon the preferential profile presented with the aid of the input means.

9. A TV signal receiver as claimed in claim 6, 7 or 8, wherein the TV signal

5 receiver has a further output terminal for supplying the preferential profile.

10. A TV signal receiver as claimed in claim 6, 7, 8 or 9, wherein the information added to the memory is the preferential profile of themes.

11. A TV signal receiver as claimed in claim 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10, wherein a second TV signal block with a specific preferential profile is insertable into more than one
10 interruption.

12. A TV signal receiver as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the memory is a magnetic record carrier.

13. A TV signal receiver as claimed in claim 12, wherein the magnetic record carrier is a hard disk.

15 14. A TV signal receiver as claimed in claim 12, wherein the magnetic record carrier is a longitudinal magnetic recording medium.

15. A TV signal receiver as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein the memory is a solid-state memory.

1/5

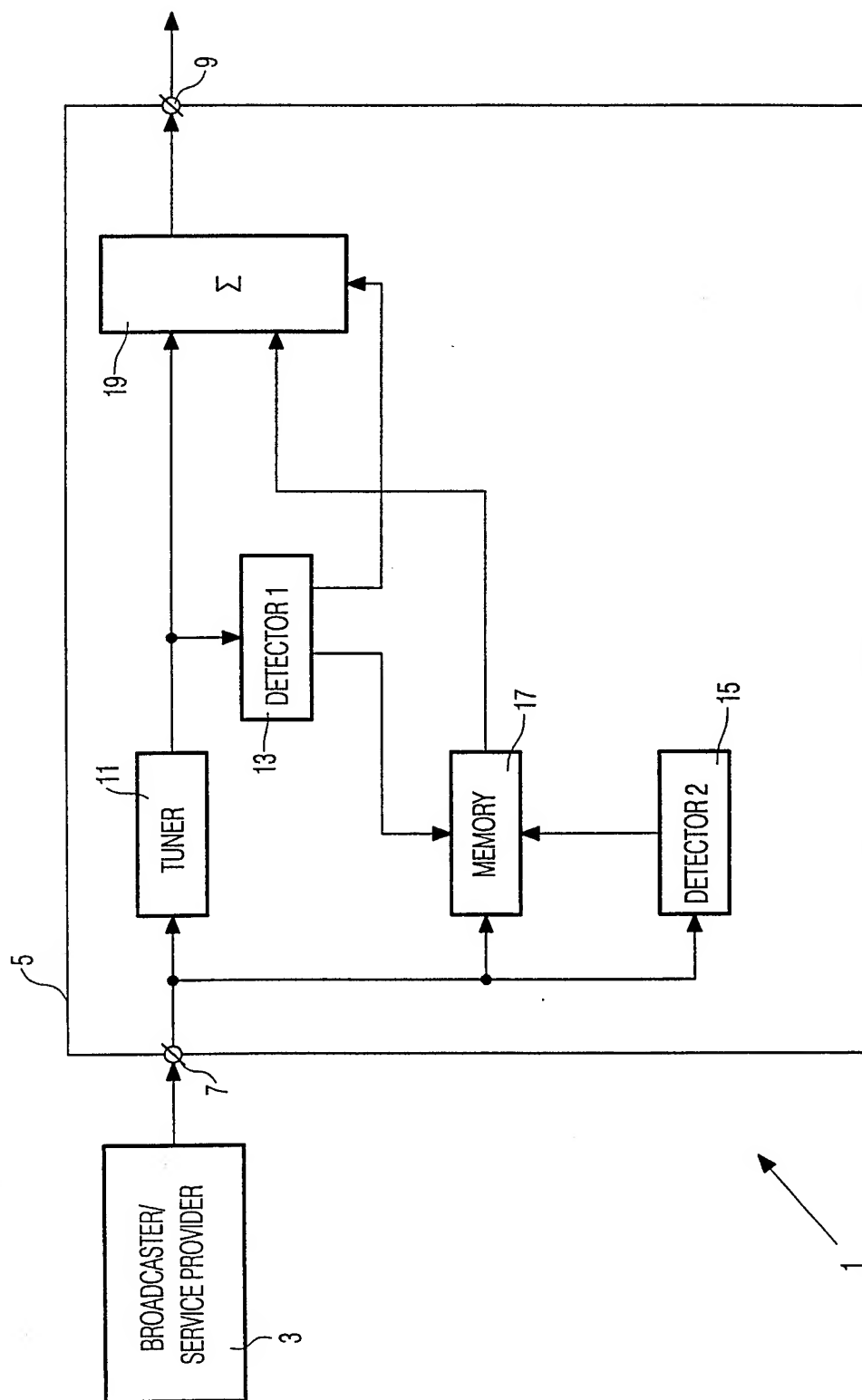


FIG.1a

2/5

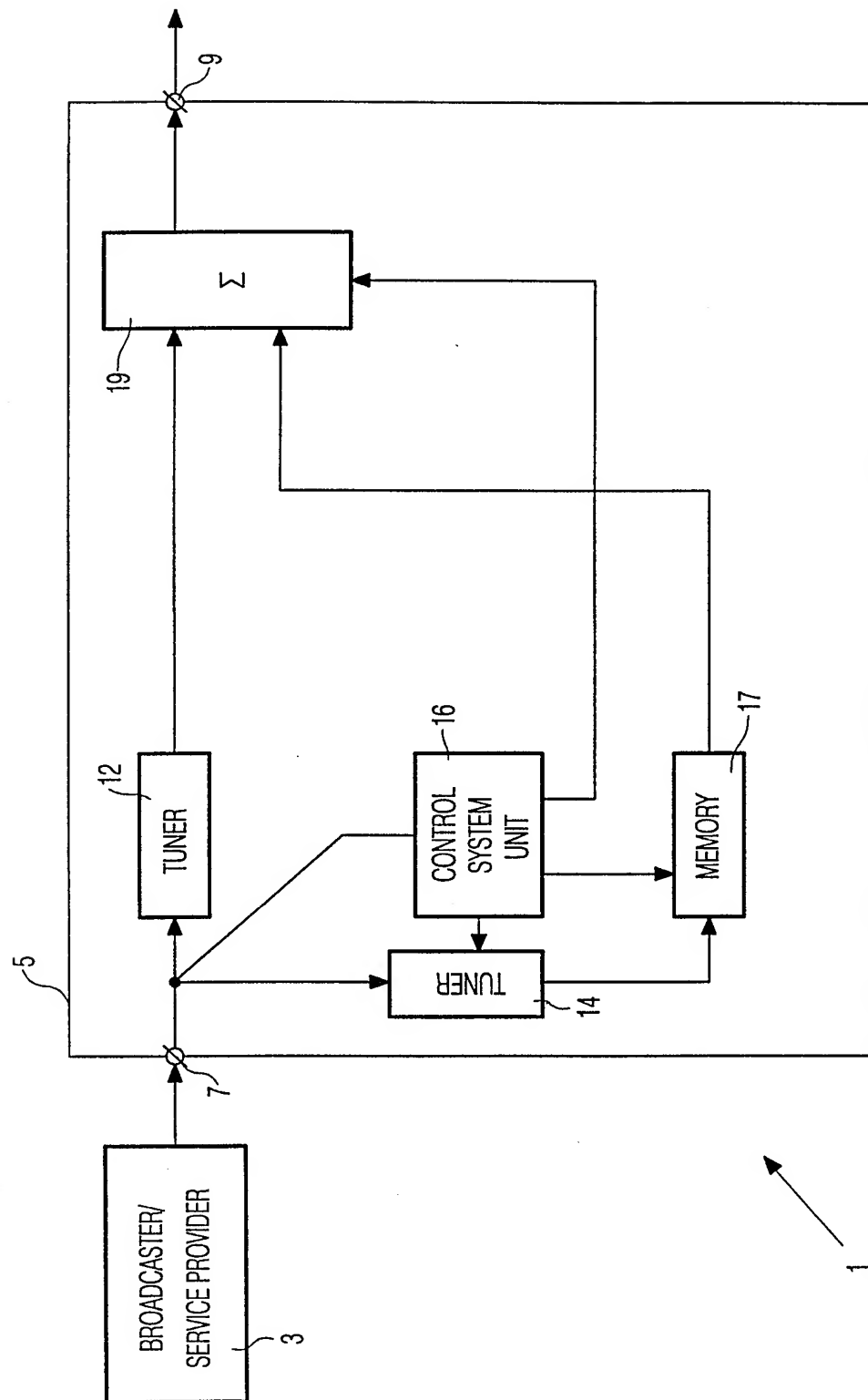


FIG. 1b

3/5

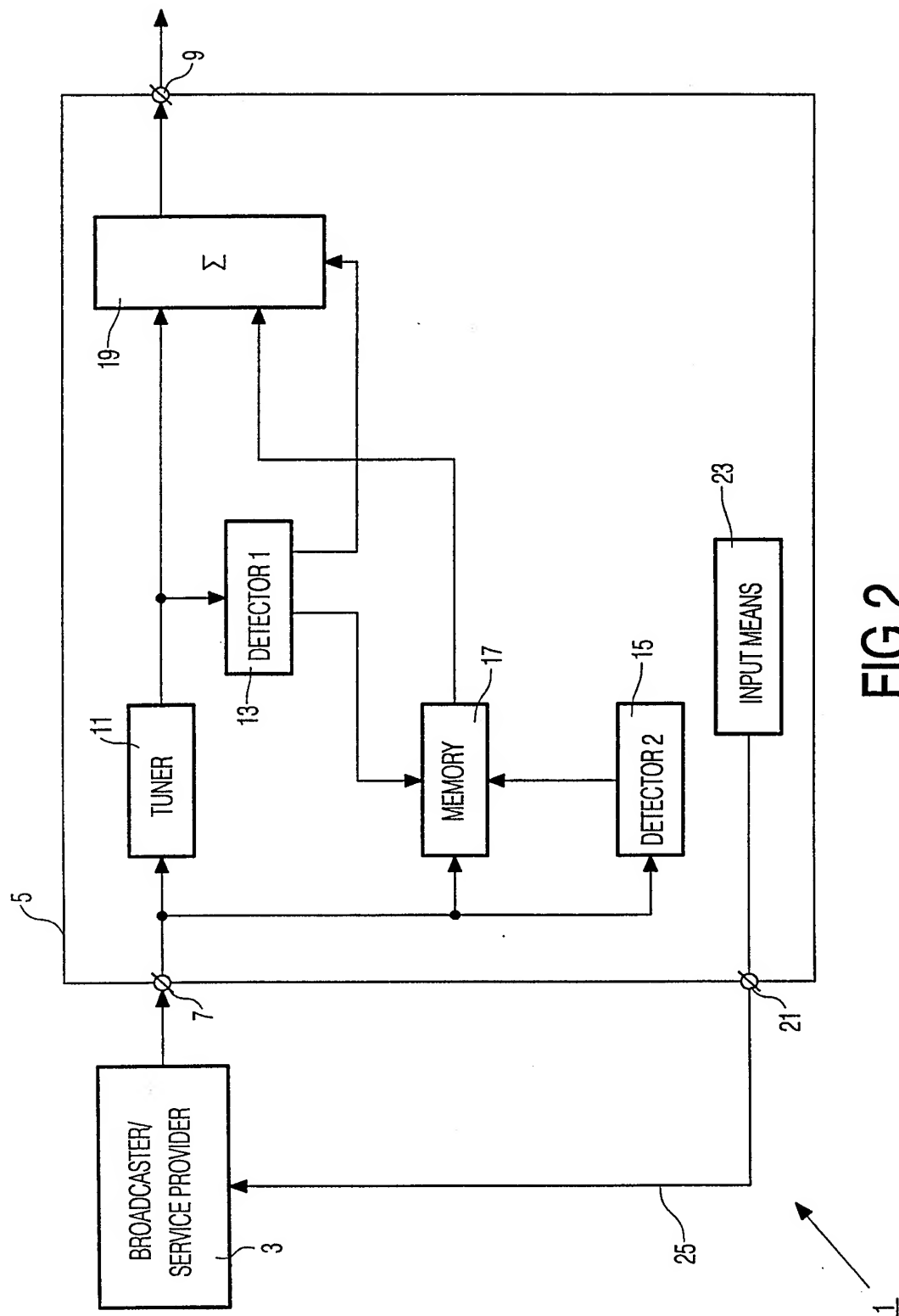


FIG.2

4/5

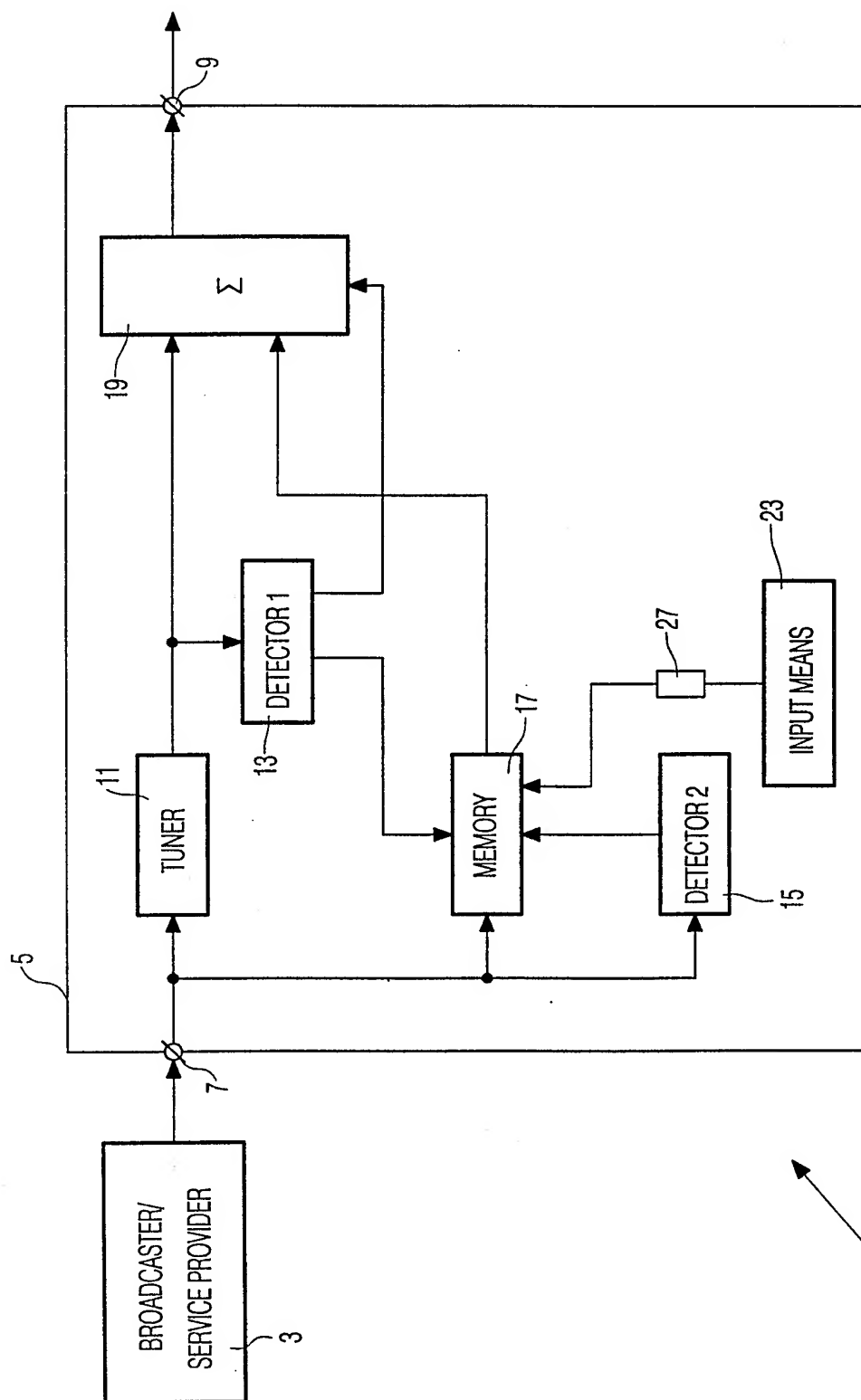


FIG.3

5/5

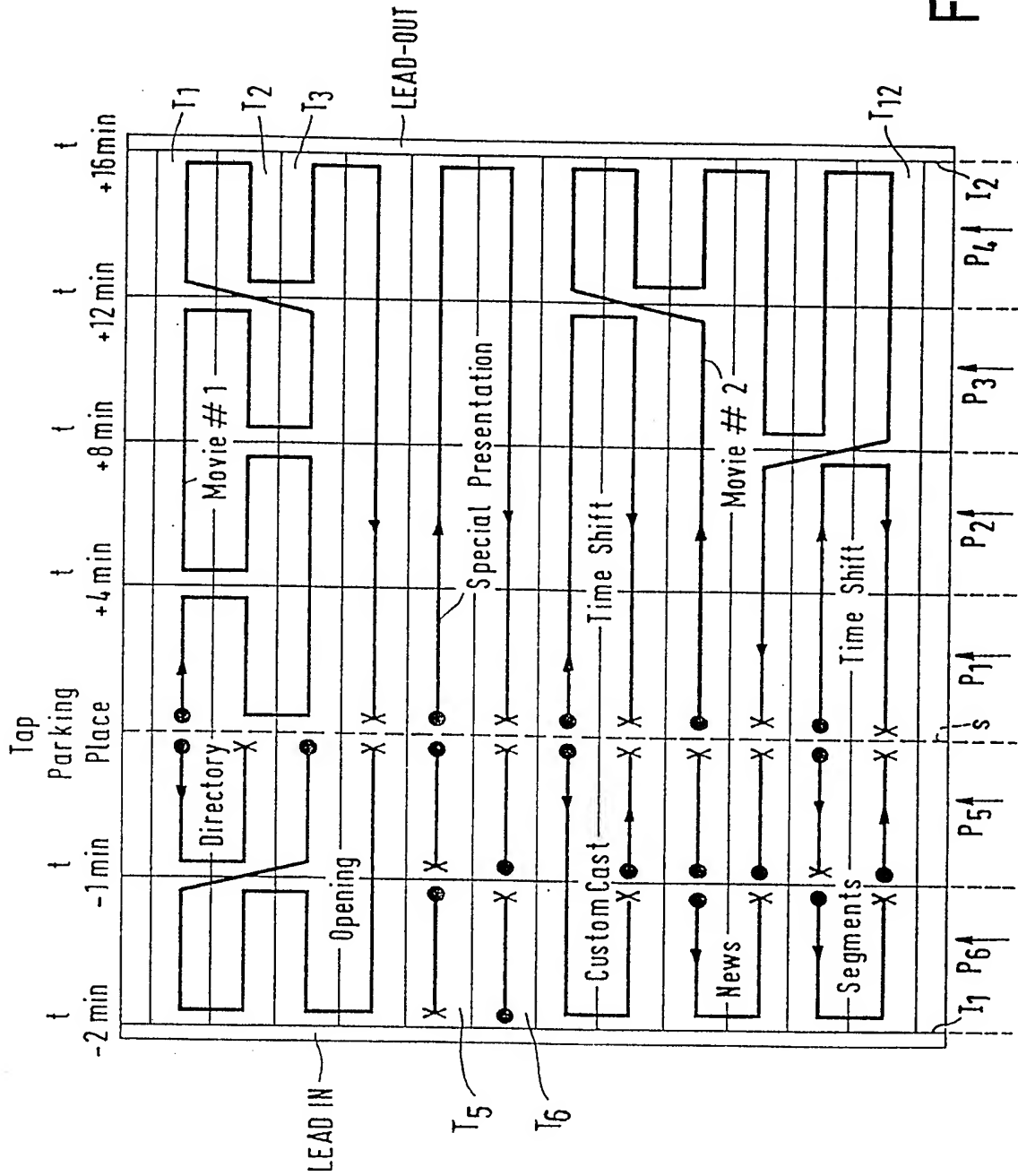


FIG. 4

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/IB 98/00172

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER				
IPC6: H04N 5/44, H04N 7/08, H04N 5/92 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC				
B. FIELDS SEARCHED				
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)				
IPC6: H04N				
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched				
SE,DK,FI,NO classes as above				
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)				
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT				
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.		
X	US 5233423 A (FOREST E. JERNIGAN ET AL), 3 August 1993 (03.08.93), page 2, line 35 - page 4, line 11, abstract, see the claims --	1-15		
X,P	WO 9736424 A1 (SPOTCOM, INC.), 2 October 1997 (02.10.97), page 11, line 30 - line 37; page 12, line 13 - page 13, line 4; page 13, line 24 - page 14, line 26, page 15, line 13 - line 18; page 15, line 27 - page 16, line 14 --	1-15		
A	WO 9605699 A1 (ACTV. INC.), 22 February 1996 (22.02.96), page 17, line 8 - line 12; page 18, line 17 - line 24, abstract --	1-15		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.				
<table border="0"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> * Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "&" document member of the same patent family </td> </tr> </table>			* Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "&" document member of the same patent family
* Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "&" document member of the same patent family			
Date of the actual completion of the international search		Date of mailing of the international search report		
14 July 1998		20-07- 1998		
Name and mailing address of the ISA/ Swedish Patent Office Box 5055, S-102 42 STOCKHOLM Facsimile No. +46 8 666 02 86		Authorized officer Michel Gascoin Telephone No. +46 8 782 25 00		

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/IB 98/00172

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	WO 9311617 A1 (ACTV. INC.), 10 June 1993 (10.06.93), page 4, line 31 - line 33; page 5, line 11 - line 24; page 6, line 27 - line 33, abstract, page 7, line 14 - line 16; page 8, line 24 - page 9, line 10; page 11, line 19 - line 24 --	1,2
A	US 5534941 A (JOHN J. SIE ET AL), 9 July 1996 (09.07.96), column 1, line 46 - column 2, line 36, see the claims -- -----	1,2

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

30/06/98

International application No.

PCT/IB 98/00172

Patent document cited in search report			Publication date	Patent family member(s)			Publication date
US	5233423	A	03/08/93	NONE			
WO	9736424	A1	02/10/97	AU	2551697	A	17/10/97
WO	9605699	A1	22/02/96	AU	688496	B	12/03/98
				AU	2290895	A	07/03/96
				BR	9506316	A	05/08/97
				CA	2173996	A	22/02/96
				EP	0723729	A	31/07/96
				JP	9504156	T	22/04/97
				US	5585858	A	17/12/96
WO	9311617	A1	10/06/93	AU	3134993	A	28/06/93
				MX	9206772	A	01/05/93
				US	5724091	A	03/03/98
US	5534941	A	09/07/96	NONE			